

A FLORA OF WOODSTOCK, VERMONT.—For a number of years Miss Elizabeth Billings, whose family estate overlooks the village of Woodstock, Vermont, has interested herself in the flora of the region. For eight summers past, she has employed Miss E. M. Kittredge, formerly of the New York Botanical Garden, in collecting and determining specimens. The first result of these activities was an excellent local herbarium. The second now appears in the form of an uncommonly well printed and attractive little pamphlet¹ containing an annotated list of the ferns and flowering plants (grasses and sedges excepted) which occur in a circle of six-mile radius with Woodstock village as center.

In spite of minor idiosyncrasies of scientific punctuation, the list is obviously thorough, careful and conscientious. It covers part of an area of considerable botanical interest, which contains a classical station for a group of those northern calciphiles whose occasional presence distinguishes Vermont among the more southern New England states, and, in addition, more or less outlying localities for a number of other, less remarkable but still noteworthy, boreal species. The list adds several new records of this sort. If any item in it (like *Juncus debilis*, otherwise known in New England only locally in the siliceous southeast) seems doubtful, the doubt can be readily resolved, for each rests upon a specimen in Miss Billings' herbarium.

Such a painstakingly prepared list, supported by a full suite of specimens, has a two-fold value. It furnishes both ballast and propulsive power to the activities of local amateurs and it supplies useful data to students, anywhere, of the details of the distribution of plants. It is a pity, in the present case, that its value in both directions is decreased and that, as an account of a flora, it is thrown off balance, by the exclusion of the *Gramineae* and *Cyperaceae*. However florally inconspicuous—and even that feature, correlated as it is with their habit of wind-pollination, should arouse interest in any intelligent lover of plants—these two groups form a large and important element in the flora of any part of temperate North America. They include, in the Woodstock area, *Leptoloma cognatum*, one of the rarest and geographically most interesting of its species—besides being an excellent example of a tumble-weed. The writer has aided Miss Kittredge in making critical determinations enough to know that they were not neglected in the preliminary collecting and working up of the material for the list. Their final omission is the more difficult to understand; in a work which otherwise maintains a worthy scientific standard, it is an unfortunate anomaly.²

¹ Even the bit of quoted verse prefixed to the foreword tempts one to congratulation. It is unhackneyed and of fine quality. One could be reconciled to the poetical ornament commonly attached to works of popular botany if it were all as good as this.

² KITTREDGE, E. M. *Ferns and Flowering Plants of Woodstock, Vermont*. (With foreword by Elizabeth Billings.) The Elm Tree Press, Woodstock. 1931. 57 pp. 50 cents.

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